

ANS Secretary Correspondence

Robinson, Edward
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)

1910-1920

ROBINSON EDWARD

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January 18, 1910.

Mr. Edward Robinson,
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York.

Dear Sir:

I take great pleasure in informing you that you were elected a member of the Council, of this Society, for the term of four years, at the annual meeting on January 17th.

A meeting of the Council will be held, in the Society's building, on Saturday, January 22d, at 2.30 P. M., for the election of officers and other business.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 19, 1910.

Bauman L. Belden, Esq.,
Secretary American Numismatic Society,
156th Street, New York.

Dear Sir:

I have just received your two letters informing me that I have been elected a member of the American Numismatic Society, and also a member of its Council, both of which elections I accept with great pleasure, and inclose you herewith my cheque for fifteen dollars as my annual dues.

I am sorry to say that a previous engagement will prevent my attending the meeting of the Council next Saturday afternoon.

Very truly yours

Edward T. Loring

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK

February 15, 1910

Samuel L. Belden Esq., Secretary.

My dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your note of yesterday informing me of my appointment as Chairman of the Committee on Ancient Coins of the American Numismatic Society. While I appreciate the compliment thus paid me, my duties at this Museum are at present so engrossing that I feel I must not undertake any more responsibilities than I am compelled to, and therefore I am obliged to decline this position. If at any time I can be of assistance to the Committee in an advisory capacity it will give me pleasure to do so.

Assuring you of my regret I am

Very respectfully yours

Edward Robinson

He will remain -
All that is needed
others will do the work -
in well Acting Chairman -

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK

May 27, 1910-

Barman L. Bilden Esq., Recording Secretary,
American Numismatic Society.

My dear Sir:

I have received your notice of tomorrow's meeting of the Council and again find it impossible to attend. As this has been the case ever since I have been elected a member, and I see no prospect of a more favorable condition of things next season, there is no other course for me to pursue in justice to the Society than to resign my membership of the Council, which I hereby do. I try to assure the members that it is with sincere regret, and from no lack of interest in the Society, but simply with a recognition of my limits and possibilities. I should not have yielded to Mr. Huntington's kind persuasion when I agreed to serve upon the Council, but without being a member I hope it may still be in my power to be of service, and remain

Very respectfully yours
Edward Robinson

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK

September 5, 1910.

Bauman L. Belden, Esq., Secretary,
The American Numismatic Society,
West 156th Street, New York.

My dear Sir:

I returned from Europe last Friday, and your very courteous letter of July 19 has since been handed to me. I have certainly no desire to press my resignation as a member of the Council of the American Numismatic Society, my principal feeling being one of mortification that I should be a member of a Board whose meetings I have never yet been able to attend since I was elected to it, and I see little prospect of my being able to do so during the coming season. I still think in all sincerity that it would be more in the interest of the Society that I should resign in view of these circumstances, and I shall have no ill feeling if my resignation is accepted. At the same time I am willing to leave the decision in the hands of the Council, and shall abide by that if the conditions are understood.

Very Respectfully yours

Edw. P. Townsend

November 14, 1910

Mr. Edward Robinson,
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York.

My dear Sir:

I presented your letter of September 5 at the meeting of the Council on Saturday afternoon, and the members of the Council were very much pleased that you had consented to remain a member of the Council if it should be desired.

The Council, accordingly, unanimously voted not to accept your resignation.

The sentiments expressed in my letter of July 19 reflect the feelings of the members of the Council on this subject.

With kind regards, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 30, 1912.

Bauman L. Belden, Esq., Secretary,
The American Numismatic Society,
West 156th Street, New York.

My dear Sir:

Can you recommend me a person who is competent to make a scientific catalogue of a collection of coins which is now on deposit in this Museum as a loan? The coins are mostly modern, of various European countries as well as America, and I believe there are few if any specimens which go back of the sixteenth century. The owner, who is now in Europe, wishes to have a catalogue of such detail and accuracy that in looking up new specimens he can be sure whether pieces offered to him are duplicates of those already in his collection.

It would, of course, be essential that we should have entire confidence in the honesty of the person whom we might select for this work, as the cataloguing would involve the handling of the specimens without restrictions.

For any information or advice you can give me I shall be sincerely grateful.

Very truly yours

Edward Robinson

September 11th, 1913.

Mr. Edward Robinson,
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

At the meeting of the Council, which was held yesterday afternoon, but four members, Messrs. Browne, Fryer, Newell and myself, were present, which was one less than a quorum, therefore, positive action could not be taken on the questions relating to the proposed exhibition of United States Coins, which were explained in my report on September 8th, a copy of which was mailed to you.

The members present, however, discussed the matter quite thoroughly in an informal way, and it was their unanimous opinion that the details should be referred to the Committee on Papers and Exhibitions (which consists of Archer W. Huntington, Chairman, Bauman L. Belden and Howland Wood) with full power.

As it is quite necessary that this be decided promptly so as to enable the Committee to progress with the work, it was suggested that I write to each Member of the Council, who was not present, and ask his views regarding this proposition, and should I receive a favorable reply from a majority of the Council, the Committee should then go ahead with the arrangements, the same as if a resolution to that effect had been regularly adopted at a meeting.

I would, therefore, request that you advise me as to your views on this question at your earliest convenience.

Very respectfully,

Director.

January 21st, 1914.

Mr. Edward Robinson,
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

I take pleasure in notifying you that, at the annual meeting on January 17th, you were unanimously re-elected a member of the Council of this Society for the term of five years.

Trusting that this will be agreeable to you, I am,

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

July 8th, 1916.

Mr. Edward Robinson,
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

There was brought to the attention of the Council of The American Numismatic Society, at its last session, the present unfortunate situation of our fellow member and former assistant Mr. Nelson P. Pehrson.

In view of Mr. Pehrson's past services, his faithfulness while an employee, and his constant loyalty to the Society in past times, it was the unanimous sense of the meeting, and so resolved, that the members of the Council, as individuals, should contribute towards the purchase of Mr. Pehrson's very interesting collection of coins for the Society's cabinet.

The Pehrson collection was therefore brought to the Society's building for inspection and appraisal. Our curator Mr. Wood, together with Mr. Reilly, Mr. Rudolph Kohler and myself have since worked towards a valuation of the collection, fair both to Mr. Pehrson and to the Society. The average of our appraisals amount to five hundred and twenty five (\$25) dollars for the four thousand six hundred and thirty six (4,636) coins, medals, and tokens comprising the collection. Of this number between two-thirds and three-fourths are not represented in the Society's collection, while of the remainder there are many which can be used to improve the specimens already in our cabinet. Particularly noteworthy are the issues of the Scandinavian countries in which our collection is very weak.

It is therefore of especial importance that we contribute towards this fund, not only to assist Mr. Pehrson in his present great misfortune, but also to enhance the Society's collection with a series of coins, which has been brought together with unusual care and discrimination. I need scarcely add that not only Mr. Pehrson himself, but the Society as a whole, will greatly appreciate your generous contribution.

Yours very sincerely,

July 9th, 1917.

Edward Robinson, Esq., Director,
Metropolitan Museum of Art,
New York.

Dear Sir:-

In accordance with your request, at a meeting of the Council of The American Numismatic Society on July 6th, your resignation as a member of the Council was tendered. I am directed to communicate to you the regret with which the Council has fulfilled your request.

Yours very truly,

President.

METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 21, 1920.

Mr. A. C. Wyman,
American Numismatic Society,
West 156th Street, New York.

My dear Sir:

Before she sailed for England on Saturday, Miss Richter had reported to me the visit of Mr. Newell and yourself, and your selection of the coins from the Durkee collection for the purposes of Mr. Harold Mattingly of the British Museum. She said that you had chosen thirty as absolutely necessary and sixty more as very desirable and important.

I now write to say that I have obtained the permission from our Trustees to have ^{all} these coins sent to you at the Numismatic Society building in order that Mr. Mattingly may profit by your kind offer to make the casts from them. I shall be glad to do this in whatever way best suits your convenience, but as a matter of precaution would prefer to have them go in small lots at a time rather than to send the whole lot at once. If such an arrangement is agreeable to you, will you kindly let me know how many you would want at a time, and whether you would prefer to take them yourself or have them carried by one of our people?

There is one difficulty which I have to meet in this matter, and that is the preparation of the list of each lot of coins for purposes of identification. Such a list is required in the case of all objects leaving the Museum, for reasons which you can readily understand. In the absence of Miss Richter I have nobody here who is sufficiently expert

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in such matters as to be able to prepare such a list scientifically. Would it be possible for you to have this done, or can you suggest some arrangement which would be mutually satisfactory?

Very truly yours

Edward Robinson

Director.

June 22nd, 1920

Edward Robinson, Esq.
Director, Metropolitan Museum of Art
New York City

My dear Sir:

I have your letter this morning and am very glad to hear that you may have the opportunity to assist in Mr. Mattingly's work by making casts in the Durkee Collection.

I met Mr. Mattingly myself when in London recently and realized the importance to him of securing these casts and the assistance which your courtesy has been.

In regard to bringing them up here, I am perfectly willing to suit your convenience in the matter, although I am inclined to think that it is safer to transport them all at one time. If this were to be done, I would come down myself for the pieces and bring them here by automobile.

It seems to me that there is ~~less~~ chance of anything happening if the whole transaction is done at once rather than if it is spread out over several trips. However, this is not a matter of vital importance.

In regard to a list of identification of the coins, I would suggest that there could be no better method of keeping a record of the pieces temporarily loaned to us than by having them photographed. From a strictly numismatic point of view, this is always the most satisfactory form of identification, as a description - no matter how accurate - cannot quite guard against a possibility of a substitution of another and similar piece to the one described. If, in addition to the photograph, a list is also desired, I should be very glad to come down myself and prepare this for you.

Very truly yours,

August 27th, 1920

Dr. Edward Robinson
Curtis Hotel
Lenox, Mass.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

Your letter of August 23rd enclosing a communication regarding a collection of seals belonging to St. Ignatius College at Valkenburg has been received. I will have the matter laid before the proper Committee, and reply to the writer that you have referred this communication to us.

Very respectfully yours,

Secretary

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